

For Immediate Release

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*Washington, D.C.*-- Today, Congressman Albio Sires introduced the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Global Health Technology Act, to encourage the development of health products that are affordable, culturally appropriate, and easy to use in low-resource health systems. This bill will codify a program at the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) that funds this type of research.

“Each year, millions of people in the developing world die of infectious diseases, malnutrition, and complications of pregnancy and childbirth. The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Global Health Technology Act supports a long-term program to develop much needed health technologies such as safe injection devices, rapid diagnostics for diseases, technologies for safe delivery, and other innovative health solutions,” said Congressman Sires.

Through USAID, the federal government is addressing the need for global health technologies by facilitating public-private partnerships to develop affordable and appropriate health technologies. The present program has facilitated the development of over 30 life-saving technologies, ten of which have been commercialized. To encourage and support USAID’s current efforts, the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Global Health Technology Act would codify the existing program.

“I am proud to support this legislation, which will not only help address health needs around the world, but will support skilled jobs for American workers,” said Sires.

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